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## Real Story On Defense Now Coming To Light

CIA DIRECTOR George Bush's congressional testimony casts doubt on previous claims by the administration that the record \$114 billion defense budget was needed to offset growing Soviet military might.

Unfortunately, it is not the first time that the American people have been hoodwinked by their government.

Throughout this year's budget hearings, administration officials trooped before Congress and testified about increasing Soviet offensive capabilities.

However, in May Mr. Bush was admitting to the Joint Economic Committee that the increasing Soviet military budget meant the Russians were having to pay more for their weapons as they tried to catch up to the U.S. The Russians were not increasing their arsenal, according to the testimony which was made public last month in an edited version.

"Generally speaking, the USSR lags far behind the United State in the design and production of advanced electronics components and computers, and in some aspects of missile propulsion and guidance technology. They also lag in the area of advanced machine tools for producing advanced weapons," the CIA director testified.

The MIG25, flown in September to Japan by a Soviet defector, is a good example of Mr. Bush's testimony. After dissecting the plane, U.S. analysts found the following: the plane's electronic system is a generation or two

behind American technology; the plane is no match for American fighters; it was designed to combat an American high-altitude bomber which was scrapped in 1963 and is useless against either the current B-52s or the proposed and controversial B-1; and now its only possible target is an American reconnaissance plane that can fly higher, faster and farther.

The situation comes down to the Russians being forced to spend huge sums to catch up with the U.S., while the Pentagon claims that America must spend even more to catch up with the Russians.

The result in Russia, according to Mr. Bush, is disaster for the Soviet economy. In America the arms race is taking money away from needed domestic programs.

Moreover, the jobs created in the so-called defense industry are illusory. The big push now is for ship building and those jobs will last for four or five years. By then, the Pentagon may very well see a threat from Soviet land forces and tanks will supposedly be needed. The shipyards will close just as airplane production was cut back in the late 1960s, putting thousands out of work.

The Pentagon got its budget this year and defense spokesmen are already talking about \$130 billion for fiscal 1978.

Until the people's business is conducted in the open, there is little hope for improvement.